

CARMEL J. ANGELO
Chief Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board

PAULINE RANTALA
Senior Deputy
Clerk of the Board



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

CONTACT INFORMATION
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1010
Ukiah, California 95482
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221
FAX: (707) 463-7237
Email: bos@co.mendocino.ca.us
Web: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos

June 7, 2011

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, Chairman
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Via Fax: 202-228-0303

Re: Support for Boundary Adjustments to the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell
Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (S. 179 and H.R. 192)

Dear Chair Rockefeller and Senator Hutchison:

On the North-Central coast of California, a number of past Administrations, working with local governments, fishing interests, and coastal communities in bipartisan fashion, have enacted a series of spectacular National Marine Sanctuaries.

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our unanimous support of S. 179, the legislation now before you, that would protect the unique ocean upwelling system, among the four most productive such features in the world, that provides the nutrients and foodsource for these Sanctuary waters and their prolific marine life.

The underlying bill, sponsored by Senators Boxer and Feinstein, was favorably reported out by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in August of 2009. During the 110th Congress, it was passed by the House under suspension of the rules. It has received extensive hearings in both houses of Congress.

Marine sanctuaries heal our damaged oceans and protect vulnerable ocean wildlife. At various times during the year, the area proposed for expansion hosts more than one third of the world's whale and dolphin species including the world's largest concentration of endangered Blue whales, the largest animal on earth. Other endangered marine animals that use the area include Humpback whales, sea turtles and sea birds. The largest concentration of breeding seabirds in the continental U.S. feasts on the rich food produced here, some migrating from as far away as Midway Atoll in the central Pacific, and from New Zealand, to feed.

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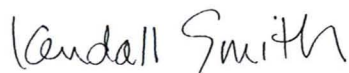
If this bill is enacted, one of the most productive marine ecosystems on earth, the exceptional Northern California marine ecosystem, will be protected for generations to come from pollution and other potentially destructive activities. The bill would complete the Northern California marine sanctuaries by protecting the source of much of their food and nutrients in the same way that water supply systems seek to protect their source waters.

This outcome has received wide support from state and local governments, fishermen, environmentalists, and economic interests. Endorsers include both houses of the California Legislature, the Counties of Sonoma, Mendocino, and San Francisco, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, the Bay Planning Coalition, the Port of Oakland, the Sonoma County Economic Development Board, and a host of other regional and national environmental groups.

The economic value of this spectacular coastal region and ocean is large. According to the most recent government statistics, the ocean economy of two of the adjoining counties (Marin and Sonoma) provided almost 13,000 jobs and nearly \$460 million in GDP from coastal tourism, fishing and other marine activities. Sanctuary expansion would ensure that the clean oceans and beaches that sustain these jobs are protected and unpolluted. Recognizing the economic and environmental importance of protection for this unique marine area, local governments and scientific organizations in the affected area support this proposal.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this legislation to preserve nationally-significant coastal waters and the economies they support.

Sincerely,



Kendall Smith, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: United States Senator Barbara Boxer, Sponsor
United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, Co-Sponsor
Congressman Mike Thompson
Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey
Senator Noreen Evans
Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro